

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-12, and add new claims 13-28, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling transfer of data between a service provider and a user in a communication system where the service provider possesses a privacy policy, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

introducing to a broker a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user;
receiving a request for data associated with the user from a service provider to the broker;

checking, in the broker, the request against a usage policy of the user; ~~and~~

deciding ~~if whether~~ the data can be released;

wherein the privacy policy and the usage policy specify a strictness level, selected from a defined set of strictness levels, describing the constraints related to the access of data.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 1, further comprising: ~~the step of~~

using the user to define the usage policy for the constraints related to the data.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 1, further comprising: ~~the step of~~

providing the broker with a predefined set of privacy policies and usage policies.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 3, wherein the providing ~~step~~ comprises providing the privacy policies and the usage policies comprising similar information elements.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 3, wherein the providing ~~step~~ comprises providing at least one of the privacy policies and at least one of the usage policies which specify a strictness level describing the constraints related to the data.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 3, further comprising: ~~the step of~~

using the user to choose the usage policies for the constraints related to the data.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 5, further comprising: ~~the step of~~

releasing user data if when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider matches with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to~~The method of claim 5, further comprising: ~~the step of~~

indicating, by the broker, the strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user to the service provider ~~if~~when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to~~The method of claim 5, further comprising: ~~the step of~~

allowing the user to reduce a usage policy requirement ~~if~~when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to~~The method of claim 1, further comprising: ~~the step of~~

attaching an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.

11. (Currently Amended) A data transfer system comprising:

a service provider possessing a privacy policy; and

a broker hosting a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user, configured ~~for to checking~~ a request from the service provider against the usage policy of the user and ~~for deciding to decide if whether~~ data associated with the user can be released in response to the request.

12. (Currently Amended) A data transfer system, comprising:

introducing means for introducing to a broker a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user;

receiving means for receiving a request for data associated with the user from a service provider to the broker;

checking means for checking, in the broker, the request against a usage policy of the user; and

deciding means for deciding if whether the data can be released.

13. (New) A device, configured to:

receive a request for data associated with a user from a service provider;

check the request against a usage policy of the user; and

decide whether the data can be released.

14. (New) The device of claim 13, further configured to:
release user data when at least one privacy policy of the service provider matches
with a specified strictness level of the usage policy of the user.

15. (New) The device of claim 13, further configured to:
indicate the strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user to
the service provider when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider
does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies
of the user.

16. (New) The device of claim 13, further configured to:
allow the user to reduce a usage policy requirement when the at least one of the
privacy policies of the service provider does not match with the specified strictness level
of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

17. (New) The device of claim 13, further configured to:
attach an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.

18. (New) A device, comprising:
receiving means for receiving a request for data associated with a user from a
service provider;

checking means for checking the request against a usage policy of the user; and
deciding means for deciding whether the data can be released.

19. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for controlling transfer of data between a service provider and a user in a communication system where the service provider possesses a privacy policy, the components arranged for:

receiving a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user;
receiving a request for data associated with the user from a service provider;
checking the request against a usage policy of the user; and
deciding whether the data can be released;

wherein the privacy policy and the usage policy specify a strictness level, selected from a defined set of strictness levels, describing the constraints related to the access of data.

20. (New) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are arranged for:
the user defining the usage policy for the constraints related to the data.

21. (New) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are arranged for:
receiving a predefined set of privacy policies and usage policies.

22. (New) The medium of claim 21, wherein the receiving the predefined set comprises receiving the privacy policies and the usage policies comprising similar information elements.

23. (New) The medium of claim 21, wherein the receiving the predefined set comprises receiving at least one of the privacy policies and at least one of the usage policies which specify a strictness level describing the constraints related to the data.

24. (New) The medium of claim 21, wherein the components are arranged for: the user choosing the usage policies for the constraints related to the data.

25. (New) The medium of claim 23, wherein the components are arranged for: releasing user data when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider matches with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

26. (New) The medium of claim 23, wherein the components are arranged for: indicating the strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user to the service provider when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

27. (New) The medium of claim 23, wherein the components are arranged for:
allowing the user to reduce a usage policy requirement when the at least one of the
privacy policies of the service provider does not match with the specified strictness level
of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

28. (New) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are arranged for:
attaching an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is
released.